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NEW NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED

PY021815 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1705 GMT 2 Aug 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Aug (NA)--Argentina today recognized the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua and made it known through an official communique which was released this noon by the Foreign Ministry. The text of the note is as follows: "Mr Minister: I have the honor of addressing Your Excellency in order to acknowledge receipt of your esteemed note No 001, dated 24 July, in which you have the kindness of officially informing me of the assumption of the Government of National Reconstruction. On stating that my government has taken note of this information, I take the opportunity of sending you my highest and most distinguished regards." In accordance with diplomatic protocol, the acknowledgement of the information of one government to another implies the automatic recognition of the informing government.

Pastor also sent a personal note to the Nicaraguan foreign minister, Miguel d'Escoto, which says: "I have the honor of addressing Your Excellency with the object of acknowledging your esteemed note No 002 in which you inform me that you have been named foreign minister of the Republic of Nicaragua. I thank you for the note and take the opportunity to express to you my permanent willingness to work in favor of the relations between the two countries."

GOVERNMENT PROTESTS MONTONERO PRESENCE IN NICARAGUA

PY021822 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1741 GMT 2 Aug 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Aug (TELAM)--The Argentine Government has reportedly sent a note to the Nicaraguan junta, expressing the surprise with which it has seen the presence of leaders of Argentine subversive movements--rejected by our people--in close cooperation with the members of the Nicaraguan reconstruction junta. This could be learned from sources at San Martin Palace, despite the fact that the Foreign Ministry has expressed to the authorites of the Central American nation the wish of our government to continue normal diplomatic relations, as well as in the OAS, where Argentina has announced its willingness to cooperate in Nicaraguan reconstruction. According to the note, this country has reportedly also been surprised over the statements made by those subversive leaders to the international press, in which they publicly threatens future terrorist actions in Argentina. The same note reportedly points out that this type of situation does not lead to or encourage the good relationship which Argentina wishes to maintain with the Republic of Nicaragua; on the contrary, they may become a source of disagreement.

ISRAELI ENVOY'S REMARKS CAUSE 'DEEP DISPLEASURE'

PY030103 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2310 GMT 2 Aug 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Aug (NA)--The national government today conveyed to Israeli Ambassador Ram Nargard the "deep displeasure" caused by his remarks on Jacobo Timerman's situation, remarks which are viewed as " a clear-cut interference in the country's domestic affairs." This information was released this afternoon by authoritative sources of San Martin Palace. During a visit to the city of Salta, Ambassador Nargard said yesterday that "Jacobo Timerman has the right to live in Israel because he is a Jew." Nargard added that "Timerman's situation is not a problem between the two countries, but we want to facilitate his right to live in Israel."

NATIONAL STRIKE CALLED, GOVERNMENT TAKES COUNTERMEASURES

State and Private Schools Closed

PY021258 La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 1130 GMT 2 Aug 79 PY

[Excerpts] The 24-hour strike, decreed by the Bolivan Labor Central, became effective as of 0000 this morning. The COB strike affects the whole educational system of the country, and today both state and private schools will be closed.

The strike and general state of emergency of the labor movement of the country was decreed yesterday afternoon by the COB. It was said that the measure was taken in repudiation of the tampering with the p,pular vote in the National Electoral Court in order to favor Victor Paz Estenssoro's candidacy.

On the other hand, the COB clearly states that the strike is not staged in support of any political group whatsoever, only in defense of a principle, namely that the majority vote of the people should be respected in the appointment of the rulers of the country by the National Congress. The COB stresses that the labor movement of the country confirms its independence as a class with regard to the political parties.

Buses Stored; MNRI Leaders Detained

PY021704 Paris AFP in Spanish 1635 GMT 2 Aug 79 PY

[By Eduardo Perez Iribarne]

[Excerpts] La Paz, 2 Aug (AFP)--Leftist strike pickets today attacked with stones and sticks the few public transport vehicles which dared to ignore the 24-hour strike decreed yesterday by the Bolivian Labor Central [COB].

COB leaders who were interviewed by AFP regarding the strike stated that it was a 90-percent success throughout the country. The COB decided to call the national strike as a protest against the "shameless electoral fraud committed by the National Electoral Court against the popular vote."

Spokesmen of the Paz Estenssoro sector, who were interviewed by AFP, stated that the sector rejects "the COB provocation and the totalitarian aspirations of the UDP leaders."

Meanwhile, this morning uniformed police occupied the headquarters of the National Revolutionary Movement of the Left (MNRI), Siles Zuazo's party, while two leaders of the party were detained and taken to the airbase of this city for reasons which were not explained.

Security Forces Placed on Alert

PY022156 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2045 GMT 2 Aug 79 PY

[By Rene Villegas]

[Text] La Paz, 2 Aug (LATIN)--The Bolivian military government today placed all of its security apparatus in a state of alert in view of the danger of an escalation of terrorist activity coinciding with the 24-hour general strike which paralized the country today.

Interior Minister Col Raul Lopez Leyton stated that the already critical political situation may be aggravated as a result of a criminal acts similar to the wave of street violence which broke out last night in a vast area. Hotheaded party members and anti-social elements last night burned two police stations, attempted looting, and stoned stores in a heavily populated district of the northern part of the capital in the wake of the opening of the preliminary sessions of Congress. "I do not want to believe it, but I have reports that there are people at the university (of San Andres in La Paz) preparing molotov cocktails to carry out more violent actions today," he said. He warned, however, that state and public security forces would act with the necessary energy to suppress violent actions.

Roadblocks, occasional incidents, and some demonstrations staged in the outskirts of the city today prompted the mobilization of hundreds of policemen to keep order while the general strike called by the Bolivian Labor Central is in effect. The complete inactivity which has prevailed in the capital spread this afternoon to the rest of the country, where partial compliance with the strike gradually gave way to complete idleness, press sources have reported. No serious incident has been reported from the interior of the country, and agitation declined in La Paz as Congress held its second day of preliminary sessions to elect the president and vice president of the republic.

Gen David Padilla, president of the government military junta, today urged Congress to consolidate the democratic process and to provide a positive solution to the serious post-electoral situation. He categorically warned, however, that under no circumstances would his government permit more violent actions. Our decision is to culminate the process and to transfer power within the established deadline to a new democratic government, he said.

Under growing pressure from a noisy group of supporters of various factions, the Chamber of Deputies began discussions to elect a new standing committee, after the Senate made some progress by administering the oath of office to each of its 27 members. A similar ceremony, which will have to take place in the Chamber of Deputies, is being much delayed as a result of the confrontation between the leftwing Democratic and Popular Unity (UDP) and its center and rightist adversaries who make up a majority.

Two Policemen Shot in Clash

PY022202 Paris AFP in Spanish 2145 GMT 2 Aug 79 PY

[Text] La Paz, 2 Aug (AFP)--Two policemen were shot here today in a violent clash between police forces and angry demonstrators, it was reported. Interior Minister Raul Lopez regretted the violence used by unrestrained groups, adding that the police will act with energy to prevent disorder and outbursts from the demonstrators. A car in which an AFP reporter was riding as he went about his business was stoned by demonstrators, but the reporter and his driver were not injured in the attack.

One Dead, 15 Injured

PY030011 Paris AFP in Spanish 2349 GMT 2 Aug 79 PY

[Text] La Paz, 2 Aug (AFP)--One person die and 15 were injured--among them who policemen--during violent incidents, it was reported here today. Riot police clashed violently today with leftwing demonstrators who were expressing their support for the 24-hour strike called by the Bolivian Labor Central (COB) to protest "the electoral fraud against the popular will." Fourteen persons were arrested. The car of Msgr Jorge Manrique, archbishop of La Paz, was stoned, but he was unharmed despite the damage sustained by his vehicle.

Chuquisaca Prefect Warns Strikers

PY021727 Sucre Radio La Plata in Spanish 1630 GMT 2 Aug 79 PY

[Text] Communique released by the prefecture: In defense of the security and tranquility of the citizenry of Chuquisaca Department, the prefecture warns those who intend to interrupt the normal development of public and private activities in this departmental capital that they will be severely punished. The communique is signed by the prefect of Chuquisaca Department.

Steps To Be Taken To Keep Order

PY030131 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Aug 79 PY

[Text] The Interior Ministry released a communique to the press stating that it will take the measures necessary to preserve order and social peace in accordance with the law making responsible for the future consequences those instigators who aim to create an environment conducive to anarchy and violence. The Interior Ministry communique states:

While the military government junta is making a great effort to institutionalize democracy in Bolivia, constitutionalizing the branches of government through the direct participation of the people in general elections held within the framework of recognized legality, some groups are trying to obstruct this process. Some sectors indentified as extremist organizations are employing verbal violence, rock throwing, looting and armed attacks--in open challenge to the powers of the state--against the legislative branch in seditious attempts to deliberately prevent the consolidation of the democratic process through destructive actions which have taken place all over the country and have been carried out only by antisocial groups. Therefore, the Interior Ministry informs the public that it will take the measures necessary to preserve order, security and social peace in accordance with the law making responsible for the consequences those instigators who aim to create an environment conducive to anarchy and violence.

SILES ZUAZO SAYS MILITARY INVOLVED IN ELECTORAL FRAUD

PY030016 Paris AFP in Spanish 2352 GMT 2 Aug 79 PY

[Text] La Paz, 2 Aug (AFP)--Hernan Siles Zuazo, presidential candidate for the Democratic and Popular Unity (UDP), today charged "the military government with complicity in the electoral fraud in favor of Victor Paz Estenssoro." Siles Zuazo told AFP that "the election was designed to allow Paz Estenssoro to win in spite of the people's will."

Further Details of Statement

PY030212 Paris AFP in Spanish 0056 GMT 3 Aug 79 PY

[Excerpts] La Paz, 2 Aug (AFP)--The Bolivian military government "is an accomplice of the national court in the electoral fraud it committed in favor of Victor Paz Estenssoro," Hernan Siles Zuazo charged here today in an exclusive statement to AFP.

Siles Zuazo added: "The military government's plan to tamper with the election to the benefit of Victor Paz Estenssoro is underway. Thus, we reject this behavior, which we know will elicit a civilian resistance without our prompting." "The UDP [Democratic and Popular Unity] does not want bloodshed among brothers in Bolivia. We continue to hope that all Bolivians might coexist peacefully in freedom and democracy."

He added: "Although we are extremely concerned about the future, we will continue to struggle to make democracy a reality in Bolivia." He added: "An action against the popular vote is underway in Congress, despite the majority support we have obtained, especially among these peasants, workers and middle class groups in our major cities." He said: "If Paz Estenssoro is elected president of the republic by Congress, we would obviously oppose the government. But I believe Congress has not made its decision yet." "All national sectors are not really represented in this Congress, since the workers lack adequate representation," he said.

He added that "the electoral process is culminating improperly, and this will cause disappointment,unrest and irritation, which can already be felt in the streets." "If Paz Estenssoro were elected president, he would not last long, especially because of the country's difficult economic situation and of the ambitions which could be encouraged by a weak government among military and other sectors seeking power by any means," he said. We have made every effort to avoid the errors of past elections. We have not committed fraud because of our convictions and, furthermore, we did not have the means available to the government to conceal a fraud," he concluded.

SENATE ELECTS EXECUTIVE BOARD; TO MEET TOMORROW

PY030158 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Aug 79 PY

[Excerpt] In today's session the Senate elected its executive board, which has the following composition: Walter Guevara Arze as president; Leonidas Sanchez as first vice president; Oscar Zamora as second vice president; and Benjamin Miguel, (Luis Anez) and Victor Quinteros as secretaries.

The election was conducted with the participation of only 16 senators, because the senators belonging to the Nationalist Democratic Alliance, ADN, left the Senate in order not to participate in the election. The Senate was ordered to meet tomorrow morning at 1100 for the second preparatory session of the National Congress. There will be only one item on the agenda: the election of the president and vice president of the republic.

OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES TO INAUGURATION ANNOUNCED

PY311337 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 31 Jul 79 PY

[Excerpt] Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins will arrive in La Paz on 5 August, heading the delegation from his country which will attend the presidential inauguration ceremonies on the following day, 6 August. Reports released by the Foreign Ministry also say that Mrs Rosalynn Carter, wife of the U.S. President, will be at the head of the official U.S. delegation. It was further said that 21 delegations have confirmed their presence at the ceremonies of the transfer of executive power which will be held in the National Congress in the presence of senators and deputies and officials from various countries.

The Uruguayan, Panamanian and Soviet governments have announced that they will be represented during the ceremonies by the vice presidents of those countries. Colombia, Ecuador and Guatemala have informed that they will send their foreign ministers. Also the FRG, Brazil and the ROC will be represented by ministers of state. The OAS will also send an official delegation, headed by Secretary General Alejandro Orfila.

TRADE ACCORD WITH ROMANIA VALUED AT $160 MILLION

PY021728 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 1 Aug 79 p 32 PY

[Excerpt] PETROBRAS production manager Jose Marquez Netto disclosed yesterday that according to the trade accord signed with Romania during a recent trip of Mines and Energy Minister Cesar Cals, Brazil will import from that country 64,000 tons of transformer oil and lubricating oil per year for a period of 10 years beginning in 1980.

According to Jose Marquez Netto, this purchase is equivalent to 10 percent of the amount which Brazil will receive for the iron ore it sells to Romania, but he did not provide the exact figure. In the meantime a ton of oil is being sold at $250 on the international market and therefore the yearly total of the operation will be $16 million. From this we can deduce that the overall amount involved in the trade accord with Romania is at least $160 million per year. Brazil had already been importing approximately 30,000 tons of transformer and lubricating oil from Romania, as well as equipment related to the petroleum industry. In turn, Romania imported soybean oil and coffee.

Next month PETROBRAS is supposed to receive the five sounding drills ordered from Romania last year, which will be assigned to the oilfields of the northeast and Bahia. Since 1964, PETROBRAS has imported 24 Romanian sounding drills, production pumps, deep well pumps and other pumping gear which is now being manufactured in Brazil.

MEASURES TO LIMIT OIL BYPRODUCT CONSUMPTION ANNOUNCED

PY030059 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 2 Aug 79 p 32 PY

[Excerpt] The government yesterday announced a new set of measures intended to limit the consumption of oil byproducts and to spur the replacement of oil as an energy source. The rate of the single tax on lubricants and liquid or gaseous fuels [IUCLA] has been reduced once again, by 18 percent, which, added to the 30 percent decrease ordered the day before yesterday, gives a total reduction of 48 percent. A new IUCL tax line will be created through a 12.5 percent levy on the CIF cost of imported oil and the cost of domestic oil to generate annual revenues of $1.25 million which will be earmarked for financing the PROALCOOL [National Alcohol Production Program], an alternative transportation program and coal production; and the rate of the single road tax [TRU] will be raised to 7 percent and will be collected on the sale value of passenger cars, sports cars, racing cars and pickup trucks. These measures will go into effect as of January 1980.

Also by order of the nation's president, airplane flights for advertising purposes and automobile racing, except by cars that run on alcohol, have been forbidden. However, taxicabs will be allowed to obtain fuel on Saturdays, according to a formula to be worked out by the National Petroleum Council.

The measures regarding the IUCL and the TRU were announced by the Planalto Palace after a meeting of the Economic Development Council which was attended by the nation's vice president and 12 cabinet ministers. This meeting also approved the guidelines for the creation of the energy mobilization fund, which was suggested by Planning Minister Mario Henrique Simonsen. This fund will be created by a presidential decree-law whose text is already in President Figueiredo's hands.

The set of measures included a decree-law which was signed yesterday by the nation's president whereby alcohol for fuel is exempted from the IUCL until 31 December 1985. This exemption had been authorized by decree-law No 1631, promulgated in July 1978, until January 1980. By extending this tax exemption for 6 years, the government intends to assure lower prices for alcohol which should be extensively used as fuel in the coming years.

NEW STRIKES IN BELO HORIZONTE, JUIZ DE FORA

PY021958 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 1 Aug 79 p 27 PY

[Excerpts] Three more enterprises were paralyzed yesterday in Belo Horizonte when their workers went on strike demanding salary hikes. The 320 weavers of the Companhia Industrial Estamparia, who are members of the Union of Thread Counters [Sindicato de Contagem] went on strike demanding a 50-percent hike which would increase their salaries from 2,700 cruzeiros to 5,000. [number as published]

A total of 600 workers of the Tubos Brasilit Company went on strike demanding a minimum salary of 5,000 cruzeiros, while the employees of Sano, Inc, left their work demanding a 70-percent increase in their hourly rate, a proposal which was immediately rejected.

The 600 metallurgical workers of Toshiba do Brasil, S.A., who went on strike at noon on Monday, yesterday created a special commission made up of representatives of the Belo Horizonte Union of Metallurgical Workers and the Thread Counters Union, led by President Joao Silveira [not further identified], which has tried to reach an agreement with management.

Heavy police patrolling began early yesterday morning in downtown Juiz de Fora in order to guarantee the security of banks and curtail possible excesses during the strike of security guards that was to begin at 0900.

Tank Truck Drivers Strike

PY021317 Porto Alegre Rádio Guaíba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 2 Aug 79 PY

[Text] Another strike began today in Belo Horizonte--tank truck drivers. Consequently, there is a shortage of gasoline in the metropolitan area, and the diesel oil supply is rapidly running low. The strike may cause the state transportation system to collapse if the service is not resumed, since the amount of fuel stored at service stations and enterprises in the interior will not meet demands. The lack of gasoline has aggravated the tension prevailing in the capital of Minas Gerais since the beginning of the construction workers strike, causing price increases and the disappearance of staples from supermarket shelves. There are also problems concerning distribution of cooking gas and transportation of food.

BRIEFS

AGREEMENT WITH USSR--The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the USSR has signed a cooperation agreement with the Rio de Janeiro commercial association whereby technology for oil exploration and mineral fuels processing might be transferred to Brazil. The agreement, which was signed during the visit of the Soviet delegation headed by Vladimir Pletnev, also provides for the exchange of information between the two chambers of commerce for the purpose of expanding trade between the two countries. [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 1 Aug 79 p 24 PY]

FOREIGN MINISTER CRITICIZES U.S. CONGRESSMEN'S PRESSURE

PY030306 Paris AFP in Spanish 0223 GMT 3 Aug 79 PY

[Excerpts] Santiago, 2 Aug (AFP)--The Chilean military government today noted that it is "surprised" over the pressure exerted against it by an influential group of U.S. congressmen. The legislators urged President Jimmy Carter "to take all necessary measures to obtain the extradition of the Chilean officers involved in the murder of Orlando Letelier." In a letter sumitted to the White House recently, 36 congressmen urged Carter to reject the trial of the Chilean officer by a Chilean court. Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos stated today that the letter contained basic errors both concerning its proposal and the events it comments on. He added: "it is an emotional assessment of the issue, and it is not based on facts which may serve the cause of justice." He also said that the U.S. congressmen have "meddled" in a pending trial. Cubillos said that "the group of U.S. congressmen is probably not familiar with the way the Chilean courts operate." "They believe that by exerting pressure they can cause the judicial branch, which in Chile is entirely independent of the state, to change its decision," he said.

Representatives 'Brought by the Pound'

PY021832 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 2 Aug 79 PY

[Commentary by Rafael Kittsteiner]

[Summary] There are public sectors of the United States which do not cease to amaze us. First it was the AFL-CIO's intervention in the Chilean labor plan. now it is a group of 35 members of the House of Representatives who have addressed a letter to President Carter requesting that he prohibit private bank loans to Chile until the extradition of the three involved in the Letelier case is granted. We have come to the point the Chilean court is supposed to do as these representatives say. This really is the limit of intervention. We were not aware that by means of economic punishment they could tell the Chilean court how to handle this extradition case.

"It would be a good thing for these 35 members of the U.S. House of Representatives--whose knowledge of local issues may be remarkable but who are totally ignorant when it comes to subjects which are not related to their work--to get rid of their traditional ignorance and come and learn about the Chilean judicial branch.

"It would be a good thing for some of these representatives to come and learn about the Chilean judicial branch, because for a start, there is no doubt that the U.S. House of Representatives would have a lot to learn from the Chilean justice and magistrates. As an example, we can say that no member of the Chilean judicial branch--as has happened with members of the House of Representatives--has ever been accused of bribery, mishandling of funds or of selling their influence. This is something that happens practically every day in the U.S. Congress. The only difference between the cases lies in the amount involved in each bribe and that some have the misfortune of being caught.

"The members of the U.S. House of Representatives, or at least the great majority of them, can be bought by the pound. This was shown by the Government of South Korea, which used a financial agent named Pak to buy and sell members of the U.S. House of Representatives for years. Not to mention those who were involved in personal scandals, in the mishandling of funds and even those who were reelected after having been dismissed from the House of Representatives for bribery."

We have nothing to worry about since these 35 members only represent 8 percent of the total members of the House of Representatives, but what matters is that the insolence and imperialist arrogance of this group is added to the previous intervention of the AFL-CIO in Chilean affairs.

"These members of the House of Representatives could start learning that Chile is not a commonwealth like Puerto Rico, or a subsidiary of the United (?Fruit) Company or any U.S. consortium. Therefore, the threat mentioned in the letter sent to President Carter will not keep us awake, but on the contrary will get us accustomed to the erratic behavior of the United States which explains why this country is on its way to definitely becoming a second-rate world power."

CUBILLOS COMMENTS ON CASE OF KIDNAPED URUGUAYAN CHILDREN

PY030258 Paris AFP in Spanish 0024 GMT 3 Aug 79 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 2 Aug (AFP)--The Chilean Government today expressed its concern over two Uruguayan children who mysteriously arrived in Chile and whose parents disappeared in Argentina. Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos said at a press conference that the background of this case is under study and that he has a clear conscience on this matter. Two humanitarian organizations pointed out recently in France and Brazil that the children, Anatole Julien Grison, 7 years old, and his sister Eva Lucia, 4, were kidnaped along with their parents in Argentina 3 years ago and appeared walking in the Chilean port of Valparaiso in 1976. Cubillos said: "It is a confusing case, but we will do everything possible to clarify the situation."

AIR FORCE PLANE DEPARTS WITH AID FOR NICARAGUA

PY011745 Paris AFP in Spanish 1541 GMT 31 Jul 79 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 31 Jul (AFP)--A Chilean Air Force plane left today carrying 8 tons of aid for Nicaragua. Most of this aid is food, clothing, and medicine donated by a number of Chilean Government offices. The air force plane will arrive in Managua tomorrow, Wednesday, after a refueling stopover in Panama.

BRIEFS

IMPORT-EXPORT FIGURES--The Central Bank has reported that Chilean exports from January to May 1979 reached $1,328 billion and imports amounted to $1.31 billion, which represents a 38.7 percent increase in exports in comparison with the same period in 1978. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Jul 79 PY]

INCREASED INTERNATIONAL RESERVES--A report published in the ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL SURVEY weekly newsletter indicates that as of 30 June 1979, Chilean international reserves amounted to $921.7 million, which represented an increase of $425.8 million since December 1978. [Santiago Chile Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 1102 GMT 1 Aug 79 PY]

ARMED FORCES SMASH FARC COUP PREPARATIONS

PA030422 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0337 GMT 3 Aug 79 PA

[Excerpt] Bogota, 2 Aug (EFE)--The fourth front of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) was planning a coup in Colombia similar to the one in Nicaragua, military circles in Bogota said tonight. A spokesman for the military intelligence service revealed that the operation was being planned in central Magdalena, where the fourth front of the Marxist guerrilla organization was concentrated.

The army detained 50 guerrillas and seized Czech-made automatic weapons with which the movement was planning to try to take over power in a concerted operation. Radio Caracol reported that the military intelligence service also seized grenades, rifles and pistols which had been hidden in gas containers. According to the spokesman, those arrested belonged to liaison commandos in the southwestern townships of Honda, Mariquita and La Dorada.

Antiextorsion and antikidnaping command patrols of the legal police department seized war mteriel and U.S.-made weapons in other operations. The spokesman, who refused to give his name, stated that the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) had been planning the "anticoup" operation by regrouping other guerrilla movements operating in the country. The operation was foiled with the capture of 50 guerrillas who were being trained in urban warfare in central Magdalena, in northern Colombia.

This very important report was made this evening in Bogota after the armed forces announced that the Workers' Self-Defense Movement had tried to assassinate former President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen and his former Defense Minister Abraham Varon Valencia. The guerrilla group, whose top chiefs are being tried in Bogota, had decided to assassinate former State Minister Rafael Pardo Buelvas last 17 September.

CONSERVATIVE SCHISM REAFFIRMS DIVISION ON VITAL ISSUES

PA021416 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 2 Aug 79 PA

[Text] Bogota--The two Conservative Party sectors, Alvarism and Unionism, have again disagreed in the last few hours, this time on the manner of backing the government. The positions were established in two position papers issued after a 2-hour meeting between Conservative congressmen and President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala. The president demanded full support from the sectors for the congressional and judicial reforms being debated in the first Senate committee.

Senator Alvaro Gomez Hurtado commented after the meeting: We did not come out any more united than before. The Alvarist sector had hoped that a declaration of support submitted at the meeting would win the support of the sector under the leadership of former President Misael Pastrana Borrero.

We have our own way of supporting and expressing ourselves, said Guillermo Angulo, president of the Unionist leadership. The Alvarist declaration expresses this sector's desire to support the constitutional amendment bill on judicial and congressional reform, matters which have been traditionally proposed by eminent leaders of the Conservative Party and which constitute a political commitment to the nation, he said, which has to advance in the struggle against impunity and the recovery of public confidence in the parliamentary institution. The Ospina-Pastrana position paper reaffirms that sector's complete support for the party-to-party agreements which have been appropriately recognized by President Turbay Ayala as a guarantee of loyal and fruitful understanding between the two historical sectors.

REVISED TELEVISION PROGRAMMING STARTS 1 AUGUST

PA011455 Bogota Radio Sutatenza Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Aug 79 PA

[Text] Bogota--The new system of television programming begins in Colombia today. Approval of the system caused problems and friction. According to the national insitute of radio and television, the new programming system is aimed at protecting the country's cultural heritage against aggression from foreign cultures and from the voracious appetite of certain programmers who seek only profits through the state's communications system.

BRIEFS

FUEL CONSERVATION MEASURE--Medellin, Colombia, 1 Aug (AFP)--Gasoline distributors in Antioquia Department have voluntarily decided to suspend evening sales of gasoline and to close stations on Sundays in cooperation with the government's fuel conservation efforts. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1936 GMT 1 Aug 79 PA]

MONETARY RESERVE REPORT--A financial report shows that Colombia's international monetary reserves as of 15 June 1979 had increased by $911 million and that for the same period in 1978 it had increased by $242 million. [Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 31 Jul 79 PA]

HYDROELECTRIC PLANT CONSTRUCTION--The governments of Colombia and Japan signed a contract for the construction of a hydroelectric plant in Salvajina, Valle Department, which will cost more than $200 million. [Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 31 Jul 79 PA]

SOCIAL SECURITY DIRECTOR--Bogota--Deputy Leader Minister Luis Roberto Garcia Diaz Granados will be sworn in today as acting director of the Social Security Institute to replace Alberto Bejarano Laverde, who submitted his resignation, which was immediately accepted by President Turbay Ayala. Garcia Diaz Granados will also remain as deputy labor minister for the time being. [Bogota Radio Sutatenza Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Aug 79 PA]

COMMUNICATIONS DEVELOPMENT--Arauca, Colombia--This department will benefit from the national communications enterprise projects to expand telephone, telegraph and television services in the area. A National Institute of Radio and Television [INRAVISION] spokesman said that Arauca and Casanare will be covered by a television relay tower which will be installed in the next few days. It was also said that the equipment installed in Norte de Santander Department by INRAVISION will be expanded so that audio and video television signals will reach Arauca with more strength and clarity. [Bogota Radio Sutatenza Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Aug 79 PA]

YELLOW FEVER OUTBREAK--Valledupar, Colombia--A total of 17 people have died and approximately 100 have been stricken with yellow fever in several corregimentos of Rio de Oro municipality. The information was supplied by the inspector of San Martin, Jesus Romano, who has requested doctors and medicine from Cesar Department's health service to fight the outbreak of the disease. It was also reported that the disease is concentrated in Los Bagres Corregimiento. [Bogota Radio Sutatenza Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Aug 79 PA]

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES RELATIONS WITH PERU

PA021736 Paris AFP in Spanish 1547 GMT 2 Aug 79 PA

[Text] Quito, 2 Aug (AFP)--Ecuadorean Foreign Minister Jose Ayala Lasso affirmed last night that his country is "permanently willing to hold a dialog with Peru" regarding its unrenounceable territorial rights, thus choosing peaceful methods in connection with conflicts [word indistinct] reaching an understanding. The foreign minister discussed on television the military regime's work in the area of international politics and referred to the dialog held since 1972 with the Peruvian Government representatives regarding the border problem between the two nations.

Ayala recalled that in 1972 the foreign ministers of the two countries released a joint declaration expressing their determination to strengthen the positive climate of understanding between their two nations by eliminating any disturbing obstacle. In 1974, he went on, another bilateral declaration was released indicating the two countries' willingness to seek "friendly dialog and eliminate all problems and obstacles that might arise in any area with a broad spirit of equitable understanding."

He added that at the chiefs of state meeting held in Washington in 1977, the rulers of Ecuador and Peru discussed all issues of bilateral interest, even the most delicate, instructing their foreign ministries to implement measures and carry out actions aimed at achieving just and realistic solutions for both countries. He also referred to the Ecuadorean Government's protests over border incidents that took place in November 1977 and January 1978. The minister reiterated Ecuador's willingness to resolve the territorial problem with Peru permanently under conditions of "justice and equity."

DECREASED DEPENDENCE ON OIL EXPORTS STRESSED

PA021606 Quito Voz de los Andres in Spanish 1230 GMT 2 Aug 79 PA

[Text] According to data released by Finance Minister Juan Reyna in his recent report to the nation, the relative importance of oil exports vis-a-vis the country's overall sales has decreased in the last 3 years. He said that crude sales represented 50 percent of overall exports in 1976, dropped to 41 percent in 1977 and further slid to 35 percent in 1977. Reyna added that this situation will help avert a strain of the country's economic system on the foreign exchange generated by oil exports. He noted that the decrease has been offset by a growing demand for Ecuadorean manufactured goods abroad, which was more stable [as heard]. These goods represented 9.6 percent of exports in 1976 and began to grow in importance in 1977, when they amounted to 23.5 percent of sales, reaching the significant figure of 26.9 percent in 1978.

INCOMING VICE PRESIDENT REFUTES FINANCE MINISTER

PA021458 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 2 Aug 79 PA

[Text] Vice President-elect Oswaldo Hurtado Larrea has contradicted a comment made by the current finance minister during his televised report to the nation that the nation's public debt amounts to $2.482 billion. Hurtado said that the debt exceeds $3 billion, or over 75 billion sucres. He added that the government that will take office on 10 August will face a critical situation and serious economic problems because a large portion of revenue will have to be earmarked to amortize loans obtained abroad under harsh credit conditions. The $3 billion figure has been estimated by special commissions appointed to study this matter, hurtado said.

AUTHENTIC RADICAL LIBERAL PARTY PRESIDENT INTERVIEWED

PY022222 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 2 Aug 79 p 11 PY

[Text of undated interview with Authentic Liberal Radical Party President Miguel Angel Martinez Yaryes in Asuncion]

[Excerpt] [Question] What is the situation of the Authentic Radical Party [PLRA] ? Will it let things continue as they are or will it request recongnition by the Central Electoral Board?

[Answer] We have been saying all the time that we consider ourselves to be the true PLRA and that the name and the headquarters of the party have been taken over by handpicked agents of the government through the Central Electoral Board. This situation will have to be reversed so that the PLRA directorate, its headquarters, its chapters and its organizations can be recovered by the true representative of the PLRA with the support of the radical liberal people, the large majority of whom remain loyal to the leaders of the "authentic group." Therefore we will not seek recognition from the dictatorship, and we are not thinking of initiating any action to that effect.

[Question] Are you setting any deadline?

[Answer] As things stand now, I believe that the deadline will be the end of the current governing system. Although this deadline is indefinite, in the light of recent events and the support given by the Paraguayan people to the national agreement, it is obvious that the deadline is drawing nearer than one could have imagined 6 months or a year ago.

[Question] Does that mean that as long as the current system persists, the PLRA will not participate in elections?

[Answer] Definitely.

[Question] Even if it persists for decades?

[Answer] Even if its persists for decades. We are convinced that we would not serve the interests of the people by participating, but rather benefit the dictatorship. We believe that to defend the interests of the people it is neither necessary nor indispensable to gain seats in Congress or municipal boards, especially if we have to accept tacit or explicit conditions, as has been the situation in recent years.

[Question] Is the position of the national agreement the same?

[Answer] I believe so. At least that is what has been clearly established in the resolutions made in that regard. We believe that the governing system has become outmoded in Latin America, as well as a nuisance for the democratic sentiments which are prevailing on the continent and that, consequently, it will have to evolve in a relatively short time toward a really democratic system in which I believe we will be able to participate once the name of the party, its headquarters and its organization are given back to us, the legitimate owners.

HAYA DE LA TORRE DIES OF HEART FAILURE

PA031210 Lima AFP in Spanish 0610 GMT 3 Aug 79 PA

[Text] Lima, 3 Aug (AFP)--Victor Raul Haya de la Torre, founder and chief of the Peruvian APRA Party, died tonight as a result of heart failure, according to an announcement made at party headquarters. The 84-year-old Haya de la Torre had been in critical condition for 13 days, a victim of heart, respiratory and neurological trouble, in addition to lung cancer.

ELECTION PROCESS MACHINERY PUT INTO MOTION

PY011522 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Aug 79 PY

[Text] The president of the National Electoral Court, Ulyses Montoya Manfredi, reiterated yesterday that the machinery for the upcoming elections, called by the government, has already been put into motion.

He remarked that during yesterday's session, the members of the National Electoral Court studies the law which calls for the election of the president, vice president and congressmen. Montoya also indicated that he will give a press conference at noon today in order to release more details about the task which the court is undertaking in relation to the elections.

He also indicated that there are [number indistinct] illiterates who have already registered and that there are approximately [number indistinct] illiterates who will be able to vote. Montoya also indicated that he could not give the exact number of persons able to vote, although 4,173,571 citizens voted last year to elect members of the Constituent Assembly.

The mechanisms for the upcoming electoral process will be made known through the law which the government will approve very soon, according to the court's president.

SIX PEASANTS DIE IN CLASH WITH POLICE

PA031212 Paris AFP in Spanish 0239 GMT 3 Aug 79 PA

[Text] Lima, 2 Aug (AFP)--It was officially reported here today that 6 peasants died and several were wounded as a result of a clash with police in the town of Chota, 900 km northeast of Lima. The clash took place yesterday when a police detachment went to the Chota agrarian cooperative in the company of a judge to remove approximately 400 peasants who had occupied the land.

According to the report, the peasants attacked the police with various types of sharp weapons. The police responded with their firearms. At least one policeman and three peasants, including a woman, were admitted to the hospital in Chota, a small Andean town.

The occupation of the agrarian cooperative was carried out on 5 July, the reported noted. According to the same report, the authorities have ordered an investigation of the events.

MCAULIFFE'S APPOINTMENT TO HEAD CANAL COMMISSION HAILED

PA011808 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 1 Aug 79 p 56 PA

[From "La Llorona" column]

[Text] The appointment of [Lt Gen Dennis] McAuliffe as administrator of the new Canal Commission has been welcomed. It is possible to talk with this gringo. The United States continues to take steps to win its neighbors' confidence. It remains to be seen who will replace Dennis.

CRITICA on McAuliffe Press Conference

PA021751 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 2 Aug 79 p 17 PA

[By Carlos I. Nunez L.]

[Text] Like a disciplined soldier, Lt Gen Dennis P. McAuliffe announced yesterday that he will fulfill his new civilian post as head of the Panama Canal Administrative Commission with true professional zeal and in accordance with the spirit of the Torrijos-Carter treaties. The U.S. militaryman, a veteran of the Vietnam war, held a full-scale news conference which was interrupted only by his numerous duties as head of his command, which handles relations with the other armed forces of the Latin American subcontinent and the defense of the Panama Canal.

"Failure to approve the implementing legislation would strengthen the position of the area's radical elements, who are the enemies of the treaties," he said. McAuliffe was apparently referring to a number of sectors but, above all, to those who virulently oppose the spirit and letter of the canal treaties.

The future Canal Commission chief, first one in the new relationship between the Panamanians and Americans, admitted that he favors the new treaties. Although this could not be confirmed, a UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL report datelined Panama states that McAuliffe's "appointment to the post of canal administrator has been favorably received in Panamanian Government circles."

The 57-year-old general's news conference evinced the interest of the U.S. military forces stationed in Panama in erasing any belief or rumor that President Carter's decisions will not be fulfilled or implemented in accordance with the spirit of new treatment inspired by the canal treaties.

AIR BASE ALLEGEDLY NEGLECTED PRIOR TO REVERSION

PA030308 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 2 Aug 79 PA

[Text] Canal Zone installations that will revert to Panama in October under Torrijos-Carter treaties include Albrook Air Force Base, on the Pacific side. As October approaches, however, base authorities have curtailed usual base maintenance, with the intention of transfering it to Panamaian jurisdiction in the worst possible condition. Contrary to traditional maintenance practices for installations and green areas in the Canal Zone, Albrook appears covered with grass. Most of the landing strip is already covered. This evidences the not-too-good will of some Zonian sectors in carrying out the provisions of the 1977 canal treaties. In view of the poor consition of installations that can be readily seen by passers-by in the area, the Panamanian community is beginning to wonder about the condition of other areas which are not easily visible or which are located in restricted sections which are to revert to Panamanian jurisdiction as a result of the new treaties.

COSTA RICA

PRESIDENT CARAZO TO TRAVEL TO NICARAGUA, ECUADOR

PA021352 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Aug 79 PA

[Text] President Rodrigo Carazo Odio will go to Managua on 8 August for only a few hours. It will be a courtesy visit to show support for the new Nicaraguan Government, the president said. He will therefore return in the afternoon of the same day.

Carazo will meet officially with the Government of National Reconstruction and will outline the manner in which Costa Rica will aid the Nicaraguan people during this very difficult period.

The day after returning from Managua, President Carazo will leave for Ecuador to participate in the inauguration of the new president of that country. The president received a personal invitation a week ago from President-Elect Dr Jaime Roldos to attend his inauguration and participate in a meeting to be attended by Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins, Colombia President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala, Panamanian President Aristides Royo and other high-ranking dignitaries such as Spanish Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez.

EL SALVADOR

FPL SAYS THREE MEMBERS KILLED IN NICARAGUAN STRUGGLE

PA021826 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 27 Jul 79 p 2 PA

[Text] In a special bulletin, the People's Liberation Forces (FPL) reported that three members were killed in the struggle against the Somoza dictatorship.

The communique identifies the dead guerrillas solely as "Pedro," "Federico" and "Quique." It states that the three were members of the "Farabundo Marti" brigade.

The communique mentions the "regrettable role played by some members of the Salvadoran Communist Party and the United Popular Action Front (FAPU) who perversely attempted to prevent or hamper the people's tribute to the internationalist revolutionaries."

The communique states in conclusion: "The blood of our dead and injured comrades mixed with that of the many heroic brothers of the Sandinist National Liberation Front who are immortal heroes of the Central American Revolution."

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES GASOLINE PRICE INCREASE

PA022007 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1944 GMT 2 Aug 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 2 Aug (LATIN)--Economy Under Secretary Carlos Hipolitico Murillo announced today that the government has decreed a gasoline price increase of a little over 18 percent which will go into effect next week.

The current price of gasoline here is $2.37 per gallon. After Tuesday it will be (?$2.80) per gallon, Murillo announced.

GUATEMALA

FAR SETS CONDITION FOR ALONZO LIMA'S RELEASE

PA021330 Paris AFP in Spanish 0507 GMT 2 Aug 79 PA

[Text] Guatemala, 1 Aug (AFP)--As their condition to release Deputy Foreign Minister Alfonso Alonzo Lima, the extreme left guerrilla group known as the Rebel Armed Forces (FAR) today asked the kidnaped official's family to publish a bulletin released by their organization in all communication media. The bulletin includes a lengthy justification of the guerrilla armed struggle.

Alonzo Lima's family reportedly began making arrangements tonight for publication of the document, which apparently will begin appearing tomorrow in a number of papers.

The FAR had initially asked the government to stop checking vehicles and to release two guerrillas who, they claim, are under arrest. In view of the government's refusal to comply with their demands, the FAR today approached the kidnaped official's family to arrange for the publication of their document.

REPORTAGE ON STUDENT UNREST, STRIKES, EXPULSIONS

Widespread Student Strike

PA021530 Paris AFP in Spanish 0536 GMT 2 Aug 79 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 1 Aug (AFP)--It was learned today that the strike currently being staged by students of a number of public high schools is spreading throughout the country.

The strike began last week in a public high school in Quezaltenango, 200 km west of this capital. Students there rejected the appointment of a teacher, but the Education Ministry did not accede to their demands, which it regarded as groundless.

Several other public schools in Quezaltenango also began strikes, but yesterday the government notified the principals of those schools that they should annul the latter's enrollment and close the schools for the remainder of the present term, which concludes in October. Some 5,000 local students have been affected by this measure, but today all public schools in Quezaltenango as well as several schools in other cities joined the strike.

Meanwhile, many students in the capital have already announced they will stage staggered strikes tomorrow. A student leader told this agency tonight that within 1 week all of the country's high school students will have joined the strike.

For this part, Education Minister Clementino Castillo has threatened to close all schools whose students join the strike for the remainder of the school year.

Expulsion of Striking Students

PA021531 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 1230 GMT 2 Aug 79 PA

[Text] Enrollment has been annulled in six schools in Quezaltenango.

The Education Ministry provision calling for the annulment of enrollment and scholarships of those students who insist on continuing the strike has been implemented in six local schools.

According to Education Ministry sources, the following are the Quezaltenango schools affected by this measure: the IRSO, the (INVO) [expansions unkown], the Commerce School, the (Edgardo Valle) Lopez Institute, the Technical Industrial Institute and the Gabriel Arriola Porras School.

According to Education Minister Col Clementino Castillo Coronado, the above measure will be firmly implemented and similar measures will be adopted in any other school whose students decide to join the strike. The minister added that the measure has been adopted in order to preserve the order and discipline needed to carry out the national education programs.

The education minister said in conclusion that forceful measures never lead to anything good, adding that on this occasion both students and parents are being affected. Nonetheless, he went on, they themselves have chosen this path since they were warned and given enough time to return to their school activities but refused to do so.

National Congress Deputy Comments

PA030224 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 0030 GMT 3 Aug 79 PA

[Text] I am deeply worried about the student unrest in Quezaltenango [words indistinct] it might spread to other schools, Deputy Otto Rolando Ruano, chairman of the National Congress Education Commission, said today.

Asked about student unrest, Ruano said: Solution of the problem depends on the executive branch, specifically the Education Ministry. However, he added that he thinks a prompt solution is necessary so that calm will be restored among students, their parents and citizens in general.

Ruano said the congressional summons of Education Minister Col Clementino Castillo Coronado to report on student unrest should not arouse suspicions since it is a routine occurrence in the country's institutional life. Several state ministers have been summoned by the legislative branch lately to report on various matters of national interest. The deputy said that thus far no date has been set for the education minister's appearance.

HONDURAS

PRESENCE OF 2,500 NICARAGUAN GUARDSMEN OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED

PA021348 Paris AFP in Spanish 0416 GMT 2 Aug 79 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 1 Aug (AFP)--Official sources confirmed here today that 2,500 national guardsmen of Anastsio Somoza's deposed government are in Honduras. It was also reported that another 3,500 are in this country, although they have not registered with immigration authorities, making a total of 6,000 former soldiers of Somoza's army in Honduras.

The large number of unregistered former Nicaraguan guardsmen is explained by the fact that many had entered this country through points where controls do not exist and have not yet reported to the authorities. This large number of Somozists led the local and international press to speculate on a counteroffensive by Nicaragua's previous government against the present regime.

However, former Honduran President Osvaldo Lopez Arellano, who was accused of hiding Anastasio Somoza Portocarrero, son of Somoza and considered the leader of the Nicaraguan counterrevolution, in his home, has denied this. In addition, the Honduran military government has pointed out that no punitive force will depart from its territory to fight Nicaragua's Government of National Reconstruction and take the Somoza family back to power. The Honduran military junta guaranteed that it will remain totally neutral regarding Nicaragua.

Meanwhile, supporters of the Sandinist National Liberation Fron in Honduras asserted that "Honduras cannot under any circumstance launch itself into an interventionist adventure in Nicaragua." Observers believe that action of that type would mean that groups opposed to the present government in Honduras could rise up in arms and attempt to overthrow it.

Meanwhile, immigration authorities assured that stringent controls are being exerted over exiled Nicaraguans belonging to Anastasio Somoza's National Guard. But high-ranking officials of Nicaragua's former political regime are in this country. Among them is Pablo Emilio Salazar, known as Commander "Bravo," who is a very well-known anti-Sandinist, and Col Harry Pineda. These officials are considered by some circles as being the men in charge of recruiting a new force from among the old members of the National Guard.

BRIEFS

ENERGY CONSERVATION MEASURES--Tegucigalpa, 1 Aug (ACAN-EFE)--The Honduran Government today established a single work shift for business establishments in order to save fuel. Other energy conservation measures are expected to be adopted by a commission of experts in the coming weeks. [Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1811 GMT 1 Aug 79 PA]

NICARAGUA

GOVERNMENT DENIES KILLING OF CAPTURED GUARDSMEN

PA030258 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2332 GMT 2 Aug 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 2 Aug (ACAN-EFE)--The Nicaraguan Government junta said today that no member of the Somozist National Guard has been killed in this capital since the entry of the victorious Sandinist guerrillas on 19 July. Government spokesman Manuel Espinoza told foreign correspondents that the report published in Washington by U. S. officials who supported the overthrown Somoza regime that 3,000 former guardsmen and Somozist officials had been killed is completely baseless. "The testimony on which the report is based was given by former officers who fled the country because they knew they would have to account to the people for their arbitrary or inhuman behavior," Espinoza said. Sandinist leaders have allowed newsmen to visit imprisoned former military personnel and these have openly admitted that they are being treated well by the present authorities.

Interior Minister Tomas Borge emphasized in a recent news conference that "the death sentence has been definitely abolished in Nicaragua and judgment of all crimes will rest with the ordinary courts."

Meanwhile members of the civil defense committee, who are waging a face-to-face campaign to organize the Nicaraguan people, are creating awareness of the need to prepare politically and militarily for the defense of the Sandinist revolution.

A radio network, a television network and the newspaper BARRICADA, official organ of the state, make up a solid propaganda service for the directives issued by the Sandinist front.

Leftist peoples organizations, among which are teachers, students, rural workers and the new Nicaraguan Sandinist youths, have organized a street demonstration for tomorrow. The objects of the mobilization are to pay homage to the revolution's heroes, to express support for the government and its vanguard, the Sandinist front, and t. express the people's rejection of the terrorist groups who are trying to hamper the normalization process and the march of the new government. The demonstration will leave Managua's downtown sector, march toward the eastern districts, and terminate at the Don Bosco youth center.

Meanwhile television, which prior to the civil war charmed the female population with soap operas, today broadcasts in network a Cuban televised novel on North American imperialist penetration. Within the consolidation process of the new government, which followed the dismantling of Somozism, it is the leftist United People's Movement [MPU] that is promoting the saturation of Sandinist propaganda at all levels. The MPU is considered to be the Sandinist front's civilian reserve. Naturally the actions of this political group are not official, even though its leader and fighter, Moises Hassan, is a member of the junta. However, it follows basically the concept of "revolutionary discipline" which believes in and compels obedience to slogans and the cooperation of all citizens with Sandinism. The euphoria of triumph and the bankruptcy and destruction left behind by Somoza have made the MPU's task easy, even though some fears are heard that the Sandinist front is imprudently leading the country into the socialist orbit. "We want a nation with a private sector, without exploitation, with equity and justice and where the coexistence of the entire Nicaraguan family will guarantee permanent peace and development," a conservative lawyer said. The church, whose contribution to the revolution has not been recognized, at least publicly, as the people demand, has warned that there can be no peace and reconstruction in the country if it turns away from God.

SPORADIC SHOOTING CONTINUING IN MANAGUA

PA022320 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2131 GMT 2 Aug 79 PA

[Excerpt] Managua, 2 Aug (LATIN)--Gunfights between snipers and the Sandinist army continued today in this capital in what seems to be the last attempt at resistance by some remnants of the disbanded National Guard of ousted President Anastasio Somoza. Residents who saw the clashes said that sporadic shooting followed by bursts of machine-gun fire were heard throughout the early morning hours. Veracruz District residents, in the southeastern part of Managua, said today that the Sandinist army killed two snipers who had carried out attacks during nights past. The residents said that Sandinists had located a tree from where the shots came and machinegunned it until the unidentified snipers fell out dead. A similar case occurred 2 nights ago in Centro America District, also in the southeast, residents said.

Meanwhile the provisional 5-man junta centered its attention on problems caused by thousands of civil war orphans who roam the streets begging for food. The provisional government junta met today with an Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] mission to study the situation of these children, an official spokesman said.

The Red Cross said that, so far, it has been impossible to estimate the number of orphans because of the situation existing in many cities resulting from the recent war.

Members of the IDB mission, headed by Rodolfo Silva, said that one of the most urgent projects is the building of a children's town in one of the more suitable places in Nicaragua.

Many of the orphans have found temporary homes while others roam the streets hungry, begging food from door to door. Some are located at Red Cross civilian refugee centers and others are lodged at Sandinist troop garrisons.

SANDINIST GUERRILLAS BEGIN PROFESSIONAL MILITARY TRAINING

PA022237 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2005 GMT 2 Aug 79 PA

[Text] Managua 2 Aug (ACAN-EFE)--The Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) today began giving military training to 1,000 former guerrillas. The professional training is taking place at the German Pomares military complex. This is the site formerly occupied by the basic infantry training school commanded by Somoza's oldest son. The Rolando Orozco and Gaspar Garcia Laviana battalions of the southern front (on the Costa Rican border) have begun receiving training from a group of special instructors. In the Managua area, 350 members of a special operations battalion and an additional 450 fighters will be receiving training in the armored artillery specialty. Intensive military courses will go on for 20 days. Other battalions that fought in the northern, eastern, central and western fronts against the Somozist National Guard will also be taking the course.

Meanwhile, the Sandinist army has taken the first step in its professional organization with yesterday's dedication of the Sandinist Air Force (FAS) command under Commander Raul Veneiro, whose pseudonym during the civil war was "Willie." The FSLN guerrilla leaders were present during the ceremony. They were accompanied by 15 officers who make up the Panamanian armed forces military mission headed by Lt Col Ruben Dario Paredes. The Sandinist leaders were also accompanied by Casimiro Otelo, who has been appointed Nicaragua's ambassador to Panama. "From now on the Sandinist army and air force will be the ones defending our sovereignty and our people, thus banishing the image of terror left in their minds by the genocidal Somozist National Guard," said Commander Humberto Ortega, one of the revolution's leaders.

COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER VIEWS POLITICAL SITUATION

PA030330 Paris AFP in Spanish 2339 GMT 2 Aug 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 2 Aug (AFP)--A high-ranking Nicaraguan communist leader, Domingo Vargas Morales, told AFP here today that the party, illegal until 2 weeks ago, will join the future Sandinist party. Vargas, leader of the Nicaraguan Socialist Party (the party's name since its founding in 1942) rejected an immediate class struggle and said his party supports "the alliance between the Sandinists and the bourgeoisie." "So far we have been an underground movement; now we can surface without fear. We believe the Sandinist victory led to a pluralist, democratic government and this is all we want for the present," the communist leader said. Vargas is president of the Nicaraguan Socialist Party. Its vice president, Alvaro Ramirez, was appointed deputy minister of foreign relations in the Government of National Reconstruction by Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto. The communists have two deputy ministerial posts in the new government: the post held by Ramirez and the one held by Natan Sevilla, a veteran teachers union leader who was appointed deputy labor minister. It is also said that another deputy ministerial post is also held by a communist whose party membership is not publicly admitted. Vargas explained to AFP that his party did not use the communist label publicly because of the distrust the name aroused because of Somozist propoganda. On several occasions communists have participated in the political struggle associated with "bourgeois opposition" groups against Anastasio Somoza's regime, and in 1978 they joined the broad opposition front. Vargas insisted that in spite of the new legal status, the communists do not intend to follow their own political path but hope to join the Sandinist party, whose creation has been promised by the Sandinist National Liberation Front. According to Vargas, the Nicaraguan Socialist Party has 500 members, but in spite of this reduced membership it mobilized 350 fighters during the civil war in the Managua area and several dozen more on the southern front. Another political group, the Nicaraguan Communist Party, led by Eli Altamirano, has existed since 1967. This party is credited with about 100 members. Political circles here believe Altamirano could try to survive politically by joining the future Sandinst party.

GOVERNMENT PROTESTS TO U.S., ADOPTS FOREIGN TRADE MEASURES

PA031337 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1111 GMT 3 Aug 79 PA

[By Agustin Fuentes]

[Excerpt] Managua, 3 Aug (LATIN)--Moises Hassan, member of the junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, announced last night that the Nicaraguan Government has decided to protest to the U.S. Government over the freedom which officials of the previous regime--among them the well-known Commander Bravo--have had in U.S. territory to announce that they are organizing a counterrevolution in Nicaragua.

Commander Bravo led the National Guard troops on the southern front near the Costa Rican border.

According to Hassan, the Nicaraguan foreign minister will present the protest to the U.S. ambassador to Managua.

He also announced that, aside from the $20 million already placed at the Nicaraguan Government's disposal by the Venezuelan investment fund--which the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) manages--the IDB has also placed at Nicaragua's disposal another $55 million corresponding to loans already approved for the previous Nicaraguan Government and has promised another $100 million to finance a number of projects. UN representative Gabriel Valdez, who today visited the Junta of the Government [of National Reconstruction], pledged the organization's support in the humanitarian and economic areas and in supplying human resources.

Hassan added that the Economic Commission for Latin America has already sent a mission to Managua and is preparing a list of priorities.

Meanwhile, the new government adopted yesterday a number of important measures aimed at restoring the country's foreign trade, which had been paralyzed since the general strike staged before the insurrection began on 5 June. In regard to trade with Central America, provisions were set down aimed at reestablishing payments with certified checks by the national banking system through the Central American Compensation Chamber.

In order to stimulate exports, it was decided that exporters could use the currency they generate to import raw materials and accessories. It was also announced that the possibility of establishing more favorable exchange systems for them is currently being studied.

Finally, it was announced that banks are now ready to begin granting loans to agricultural and livestock producers at a 14-percent annual rate (the previous rate was 18 percent per year).

GARCIA FRIAS ENDS TOUR OF AFRICA, MIDDLE EAST

FL021238 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1140 GMT 2 Aug 79 FL

[Text] Councils of State and Ministers Vice President Guillermo Garcia Frias has concluded a tour of several countries in Africa and the Middle East. Garcia Frias held talks with leaders of democratic Yemen, Ethiopia, Syria, Jordan, Libya and the Palestine Liberation Organization, with whom he discussed topics related to the sixth nonalined countries movement summit conference. During the talks the Cuban leader delivered messages from the president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, to the chiefs of state of the visited Africa and the Middle East also served to strengthen bilateral relations and the unity of the nonalined countries movement.

FIDEL CASTRO RECEIVES BENIN OFFICIAL

FL031103 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 3 Aug 79 FL

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has received (Pophon Pav), member of the Benin People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, at the Palace of the Revolution. (Pophon Pav) was the bearer of a friendly message from Mathieu Kerekou, president of the People's Republic of Benin and the Benin People's Revolutionary Party. The talks were held in an atmosphere of cordiality and comaraderie. The two sides discussed the upcoming nonalined countries summit conference and matters related to bilateral relations between Cuba and Benin.

FERNANDEZ MELL RECEIVES MOZAMBICAN LABOR MINISTER

FL021256 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1144 GMT 2 Aug 79 FL

[Text] Oscar Fernandez Mell, member of the PCC Central Committee and president of Havana City's Provincial People's Government Assembly, has received in his offices Mozambique's Labor Minister Alberto Cassimo. During the friendly talks the visitor was briefed on the structure, functions and development of the Provincial People's Government Assembly. Cassimo thanked his host for the experiences he gained which, he said, will be useful to him when he returns to his country. Later in the day, the delegation headed by the Mozambican labor minister visited the Valle de Picadura breeding project to learn about the revolution's reforms in the countryside. National work hero and project director Ramon Castro Ruz welcomed the visitors and briefed them on the development and objectives of the cattle farm located east of Havana.

BRAVO RETURNS FROM TOUR OF ASIAN COUNTRIES

FL021809 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 2 Aug 79 FL

[Text] Flavio Bravo, member of the party Central Committee and vice president of the Council of Ministers, has returned home from a tour of several Asian countries. Bravo visited Korea, Afghanistan, Vietnam, Laos, Burma, Malaysia and Indonesia where he met with the principal leaders of these states in connection with the forthcoming nonalined countries sixth summit conference due to be held in our country.

Upon his arrival in Cuba, the vice president of the Council of Ministers discussed the results of these meetings which he described as very productive because of the interest shown by the chiefs of state in attending the Havana summit. This interest, Bravo said, is due to the need for the movement to be strengthened more than ever in the struggle against imperialism, racism, apartheid and Zionism and as a global and independent movement in the struggle for world peace and detente as well as to achieve a new international economic order.

CHINESE LEADERSHIP DENOUNCED AT TOKYO MEETING

FL021221 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1126 GMT 2 Aug 79 FL

[Text] At the world congress against atomic and hydrogen bombs being held in Tokyo, Japan, Cuba has denounced the Chinese leadership for encouraging the production of mass destruction weapons and opposing the peaceful use of nuclear energy. The denunciation was made at a time when the Japanese newspapers are daily publishing the photographs being distributed by the XINHUA Agency on new missiles being developed by China. In a speech at the second work session of the conference, Cuban representative Emilio Garcia Capote noted that the Chinese leadership's current position and expansionist policy are a threat against world peace and security. The Cuban delegate, one of 72 foreign guests from 21 countries, cited the invasion unleashed by China against Vietnam and the continued pressures it exerts upon that country, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Kampuchea.

AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO NICARAGUAN JUNTA

FL021031 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 2 Aug 79 FL

[Text] It is a matter of great pride and honor to have the responsibility of representing the Cuban revolution before the Nicaraguan revolution, Cuban Ambassador to Nicaragua Julian Lopez stated in Managua at the time of presenting his credentials to the members of the Government of National Reconstruction junta. Welcoming the Cuban diplomat, Sergio Ramirez said it was a special day for the government junta inasmuch as relations with Cuba constitutes a legitimate act of sovereignty which was made possible by the revolution because, he affirmed, we are owners of our destiny.

PORTUGUESE DELEGATION VISITS VALLE DE PICADURA PROJECT

FL031041 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 3 Aug 79 FL

[Text] A Portuguese military delegation headed by Maj Vasco Correia Lourenco, member of that country's Council of the Revolution, has visited the Valle de Picadura breeding project, located in the municipality of Madruga, Havana Province. The visitors, who were received by national work hero and project director Ramon Castro Ruz, were briefed on the economic and social progress made by the area, which is rocky and has poor soil. Since 1959 Valle de Picadura has become a highly productive project.

SATISFACTORY RESULTS IN CIVIL DEFENSE TRAINING REPORTED

FL021929 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1910 GMT 2 Aug 79 FL

[Text] Civil defense had positive results nationally in combat, mobilization and organizational readiness during the 1978-79 training year, it has been learned at a meeting held in Holguin. The main report read by Maj Eugenio Barcena, chief of operations of the Civil Defense General Staff, describes the training year as satisfactory and points out that the foundations were established for obtaining qualitatively superior results in future missions.

The report also outlines deficiencies and urges work to eliminate them so as to continue raising the combat readiness of civil defense units. At the closing of the meeting held in Holguin, it was emphasized that it is necessary to increasingly strengthen civil defense cooperation with the Revolutionary Armed Forces, Interior Ministry and other organizations involved in civil defense work.

BLAS ROCA CHAIRS PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION WORKERS MEETING

FL011134 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 1 Aug 79 FL

[Text] Chaired by Blas Roca Calderio, member of the PCC Politburo and president of the National People's Government Assembly, the closing ceremony of the seventh plenum of the Public Administration Workers National Trade Union was held at the Lazaro Pena Auditorium of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers [CTC] Building.

The opening remarks were made by Mario Machin, the union's secretary general, who referred to the development of the plenum, which approved and made its own the agreements of the eighth PCC Central Committee Plenum, the CTC appeal dealing with labor discipline and the unrestricted support for and solidarity with the fraternal Nicaraguan people. The closing remarks were made by Armando Acosta, member of the PCC Central Committee and chief of its mass organizations department. He referred to the plenum's positive results during which, he said, all problems were fully and candidly examined. He said it is up to the working class to carry out all tasks and added that the unions have to double check the work of the administrations, which have to fulfill the laws benefitting workers. After stating that the labor movement will adopt the measures needed to put an end to everything that has been done wrong, Armando Acosta concluded his speech by appealing for more and better efforts in the struggle for the Cuban revolution, the American revolution and the world revolution.

MILIAN CASTRO CHAIRS VERTIENTES MEETING

FL011151 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 1 Aug 79 FL

[Text] PCC Politburo member Armando Milian Castro has presided at a meeting held in Vertientes to examine matters related to the construction of the Batalla de las Guasimas sugar mill and other projects under construction in that municipality for the sugar industry. In briefing the party and state officials visiting the sugar mill, Raul Curbelo Morales, member of the PCC Central Committee and first party secretary in Camaguey Province, explained the current situation of the sugar industry and reported on projects under construction in the area as well as future plans for the development of the sugar industry in Camaguey Province in coming years.

CIENFUEGOS ELECTRIC PLANT OPENS

FL312353 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 31 Jul 79 FL

[Text] After completing its testing phase the fourth 169-megawatt unit of the Carlos Manuel de Cespedes thermoelectric plant began full operation this morning. It is located in the industrial zone of Cienfuegos City. Generation capacity of this industrial center is about 404-megawatt hours and it is the most powerful one in the country after the Maximo Gomez plant in Mariel municipality, Havana Province. Engineer Alfonso Afon, director of the Cienfuegos Electric Generating Enterprise, told the press that with the two new Japanese 169-megawatt units the Carlos Manuel de Cespedes powerplant is increased five-fold, which previously had two machines of 33 megawatts per hour each.

DELEGATES WELCOME UK POSITION AT COMMONWEALTH MEETING

FL021739 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1630 GMT 2 Aug 79 FL

[Text] As the Commonwealth heads of government conference continues in Lusaka, Zambia, Caribbean delegates have welcomed the motion which was started yesterday. The Jamaican, Guyanese and Bardadian delegates said that Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher had given an encouraging opening statement in underlining her government's commitment to black majority rule in Rhodesia. At the same time, however, Guyana's Foreign Minister Rashleigh Jackson noted that although the statement was fine in general, delegations would still be looking for positive progress. Mr Jackson told reporters yesterday that the Commonwealth summit could make a major contribution to the eventual liberation victory by Zimbabwe's Patriotic Front.

All the Caribbean delegations have been continuing initiatives of separate meetings with African and other leaders on the Zimbabwe problem which is the central issue of the conference. A major speech will be delivered by [Jamaican] Prime Minister Manley later today. [Australian] Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser delivered his speech this morning which dealt with the situation in Asia with emphasis on Vietnam.

SWAPO OFFICIAL SEEKS MATERIAL ASSISTANCE

FL021750 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1630 GMT 2 Aug 79 FL

[Text] The Caribbean representative of Namibia's South-West People's Organization--SWAPO--is expected to fly to Jamacia today from Barbados to continue his appeal for more material assistance to the African state. The representative, Mr Helmuth Angual, has already been to Guyana and Surinam where he called on the Caribbean to increase support for the liberation struggle in Namibia. Mr Angual told reporters in Bridgetown that South Africa, which still controls Namibia illegally, has stepped up its repression in recent weeks. He said about 15,000 Namibians have been detained in what are known as protective villages under suspicion of cooperating with the SWAPO freedom fighters. After his stay in Jamaica, the SWAPO official is expected to return to his regional base in Cuba.

TRINIDAD and TOBAGO

EXPLOSION OCCURS ON BURNING SUPERTANKER

PA022135 Buenos Aires IATIN in Spanish 1936 GMT 2 Aug 79 PA

[Text] Port-of-Spain, 2 Aug (IATIN-REUTER)--An explosion on board the already-burning supertanker Atlantic Empress, 450 km east of Barbados, has increased the intensity of the initial fire and has caused a huge oilspill. The ship, which sails under the Greek flag, is one of the tankers that collided 2 weeks ago and caught fire off Tobago, causing the death of 26 persons.

Jim Amanna, a director of the U.S. Mobil Oil Company, told this agency today that the fire is being fought from two tugs by a team of experts, but the deck of the Atlantic Empress has once again caught fire. The oil spilling from its holds is burning in the sea around the ship and this has led to a momentary suspension of activities. The explosion presumably occurred in one of the ships' 15 tanks and all hope of recovering part of the ship's 288,000 tons of oil should be abandoned.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

BUS STRIKE EXTENDED AFTER BLOODY CLASHES WITH POLICE

PA021815 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1603 GMT 2 Aug 79 PA

[By Luis Ovidio Sigaran]

[Excerpts] Santo Domingo, 2 Aug (LATIN)--The strike declared by bus drivers to protest the increase in fuel prices, which left eight dead yesterday, will continue indefinitely, according to the drivers' strike committee. The strike declared by the committee degenerated into serious clashes between police, soldiers and paramilitary forces and strike sympathyzers. It also resulted in many persons injured and hundreds arrested.

One of the drivers' complaints is that President Antonio Guzman has not consulted the working class on his price policy, but only with businessmen who support the increases. During a visit to a military garrison close to Santo Domingo, Guzman said that his government will not tolerate disorders or skirmishes which disrupt public order. He also said he will enforce the letter of the law and the Constitution to keep order and peace.

Yesterday the government closed Radio Miradio which was broadcasting a series of opposition programs, but did not explain the motives for closing it. News from Santiago and San Francisco reported that the support for the strike is complete and that all public transportation is paralyzed.

MEXICO

EDITORIAL SEES THREAT OF LEFT DICTATORSHIP IN NICARAGUA

PA021410 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0147 GMT 2 Aug 79 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 1 Aug (EFE)--The rightist morning paper EL HERALDO DE MEXICO said here today that Nicaragua is on the brink of falling into a dictatorship that is "worse" than that of Gen Anastasio Somoza, "that of leftist radicalism." In an editorial entitled "Nicaragua Is Political Booty for the World's Radicals," the paper also expressed the opinion that the financial aid offered to the Government of Reconstruction is designed to "restrain the extreme inclinations" of certain Nicaraguan leaders. "It is obvious that Nicaragua is seen today as political booty that could be exploited by certain allies," the editorial added.

The paper said that what happens in Nicaragua will certainly affect the rest of the continent, particularly Central America, which is presently divided into two blocs with Costa Rica and Nicaragua on one side and Honduras and El Salvador on the other, thus "delaying more than ever the possibility of regional integration."

EL HERALDO DE MEXICO said that the world's economic and political interest groups have Nicaragua in their sights, particularly those groups headed by the United States on the one hand and the USSR, "via Cuba," on the other. Finally, the editorial said: "It is to be hoped that the Nicaraguans will find their own path, for the good of their country, the continent and the entire world."

URUGUAY

DELEGATION TO BOLIVIAN INAUGURATION SUSPENDS TRIP

PY021517 Montevideo El Espectador Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 2 Aug 79 PY

[Excerpt] It has just been announced that the Uruguayan delegation, which was to leave this afternoon for Bolivia, has decided to suspend its trip until further notice.

Navy Commander in Chief Vice Adm Hugo Marquez and Education Minister Daniel Darracq have decided against going to La Paz where the presidential inauguration, which will turn the government over to the civilians after 11 years of military regimes, will take place. The reason for the suspension was not given and there seems to be no indication as to what could have motivated this decision.

BRIEFS

DELEGATION TO ECUADOREAN INAUGURATION--A Uruguayan delegation headed by Brig Jose Cardozo, secretary of the Planning, Coordination and Administration Secretariat (SEPLACODI) will attend the Ecuadorean presidential inauguration, which will take place on 10 August. Uruguayan ambassador to Ecuador, Daniel Soto, and the Uruguayan military attache in Peru will form part of the delegation. [Montevideo El Espectador in Spanish 1500 GMT 23 Jul 79 PY]

MEAT PRICE INCREASE--The president of the beef sellers union, (Andres Cambon) has confirmed an increase of 45 percent in the price of meat as of tomorrow. [Montevideo Radio El Espectador in Spanish 1500 GMT 31 Jul 79 PY]

VENEZUELA

ENERGY MINISTER SAYS COUNTRY WILL NOT MAKE SPOT SALES

PA021552 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0240 GMT 2 Aug 79 PA

[Text] Caracas, 1 Aug (LATIN)--Energy and Mines Minister Humberto Calderon Berti said here today that Venezuela, the world's fifth leading oil producer and sixth oil exporter, will not make spot sales. The official who made the statement before the Mines and Hydrocarbons Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, affirmed that spot sales of crude are harmful because they lead to speculation.

Venezuela, with daily production of 2.3 million barrels, sells 52 percent of that production as crude through quarterly contracts and the rest as residue through monthly contracts. Eighty percent of Venezuelan oil exports which are marketed by transnational companies are sold in the U.S. market. Prices of up to $50 a barrel have been reached in spot sales, which are held like auctions to dispose of crude oil not sold through contracts.

Calderon Berti added that "we are serious people, and therefore we respect our customers and the prices established by OPEC." Venezuela sells its oil at the prices established by OPEC, which average $18 per barrel for 34 API crude.

BRIEFS

BRITISH SECRETARY'S VISIT--The Foreign Ministry has announced that Nicholas Ridley, British secretary of state for foreign affairs, has arrived in Venezuela for a 24-hour private visit. The British secretary met with Energy and Mines Minister Humberto Calderon Berti and is also scheduled to meet with Foreign Minister Jose Alberto Zambrano Velasco. [Caracas VENPRES in Spanish 0642 GMT 2 Aug 79 PA]